

What is claimed is:

1. A switch for use in a communications system for transmitting traffic
5 from a first user to a second user, the first and second users being
interconnected by a primary communications path and a redundant
communications path, comprising:

a first port configured to receive hello communications indicative of
a proper operation of the primary communications path;

10 a second port configured to receive data communications; and

a switch control configured to monitor the receipt of the hello
communications, to direct the forwarding of received data communications
up to a threshold and, if the received data communications exceed the
threshold, to drop at least a portion of the received data communications
15 such that forwarded data communications are below the threshold.